

Moffett Community Housing UPDATE

Air Sampling Results



***Moffett Field, California
No. 6, January 2004***

Introduction

The U.S. Navy is investigating the groundwater and air quality at Moffett Community Housing in Mountain View, California. The housing area includes Orion Park and Wescoat Housing. This update presents the results of air sampling conducted in November 2003 and the next steps in the Navy's air investigations. The November 2003 air sampling results indicate there are no immediate or short-term health risks to the residents at Moffett Community Housing.

Background

The Navy initiated investigations at Moffett Community Housing because chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found in the groundwater. The groundwater under Moffett Community Housing is not used for drinking, irrigation or other household purposes. For this reason, the VOCs in the groundwater do not pose

a health risk through ingestion, bathing or other contact. The water used in the housing area comes from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in the Sierra Nevada, and is treated to meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

Because VOCs evaporate easily, there is a possibility that they could be moving from the groundwater through the soil, as a gas, into the air above. There are also other potential sources of VOCs in the air, besides groundwater. For example, VOCs can be found in homes where household products like spray cleaners and adhesives are commonly used.

Air sampling conducted in 2002 found VOCs, including a chemical called TCE (trichloroethylene), in the indoor and outdoor air at Moffett Community Housing. The study found that there were no immediate or short-term health risks to the residents, their families, or

pets from TCE in the air or groundwater at Moffett Community Housing.

**Based on data from the
November 2003 air
sampling and previous
studies, there are no
immediate or short-term
health risks to the residents
at Moffett Community
Housing from TCE or its
breakdown products
in the air**

Ongoing Air Investigations

The Navy is currently conducting air investigations to evaluate potential long-term health risks from exposure to TCE and its breakdown products, cis-1,2-dichloroethene and vinyl chloride, in the air at Moffett Community Housing. As a part of the study, 25 indoor and 9 outdoor locations were sampled in November 2003. Another round of sampling is scheduled for May 2004, which will help determine if there are variations in site conditions between seasons. Data from the November 2003 and May 2004 sampling events will be used collectively to assess potential long-term health risks.

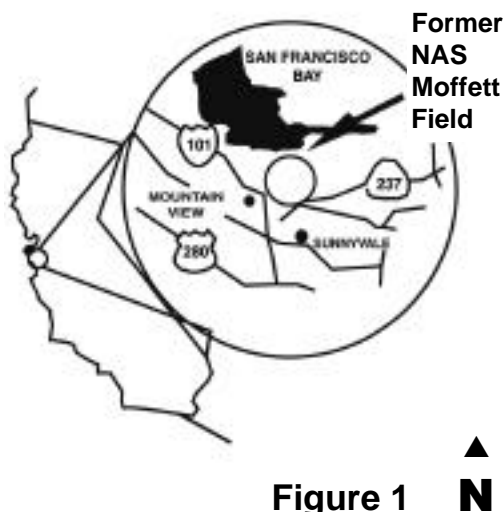


Figure 1

Results of the November 2003 Air Sampling

In November 2003, 130 air samples were collected at 25 indoor and 9 outdoor sampling locations. Indoor air samples were taken in vacant housing units and outdoor samples were collected at playgrounds and other common areas. The Moffett Community Housing Update No. 5 showed a map of the sampling locations. If you would like to receive copies of previous updates, please contact any of the project

What is a "health-protective range?"

EPA establishes health-protective ranges for chemicals of concern, such as TCE, to provide a sufficient margin of safety for everyone, including "sensitive" individuals (i.e., children and pregnant women). TCE in the air at a level greater than the health-protective range does not necessarily pose a health risk, but indicates that additional evaluation may be warranted to determine if a potentially significant health risk could exist.

exposure to TCE. Long-term exposure is often described as 30 years of continual (24-hours a day, seven days a week) exposure. In the case of the indoor air samples, results from

points of contact listed below.

Results from the November air sampling showed that air at all tested outdoor locations was within the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "health-protective range" (explained in the box to the left) for long-term

**The Navy will present the results
of the Moffett Community Housing November 2003
air sampling event at the January 15, 2004,
meeting of the former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett
Field Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The meeting
will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the fourth
floor gallery area of the Mountain View City Hall
at 500 Castro Street.**

23 of the 25 sampling locations were within the health-protective range. Two of the 25 indoor sampling locations showed TCE concentrations slightly above EPA's health-protective range. These units are currently vacant and will remain vacant until further tests are conducted.

The results of the November air sampling support the conclusion that there are no immediate or short-term health risks to the residents at Moffett Community Housing from TCE or its breakdown products in the air. Potential long-term health risks will be evaluated following the May 2004 sampling.

Next Steps

Additional air sampling will be conducted in May 2004. The Navy will use data from the two sampling events (November 2003 and May 2004) to develop a final report, which will estimate long-term exposure risk and determine what actions, if any, are needed to protect human health. A fact sheet on the final report will be prepared in late 2004.

Project Points of Contact

Involving and informing the public is an important part of this project. The Navy's project team is very interested in developing and maintaining open communication with the residents at Moffett Community Housing and the surrounding communities. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the following project team members:

Ms. Andrea Espinoza

BRAC Environmental Coordinator,
former NAS Moffett Field
Southwest Division, Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132-5190
Phone: 619-532-0911; Fax: 619-532-0995
E-mail: andrea.espinoza@navy.mil

Mr. Moses Thomas Jr.

Director, Housing Management
Army Housing Authority
Building # 48, P.O. Box 40
Community Housing Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035
Phone: 650-603-8142
Fax: 650-603-8138
E-mail:
moses.thomas@spd02.usace.army.mil

All plans and reports related to the Navy's groundwater and air quality studies at Moffett Community Housing are available daily for your review at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, California.